

Message Text

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AMCONSUL ADANA

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SUBJ: GOT STATEMENTS ON TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS

1. BOTH PRIMIN DEMIREL AND FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL IN SEPARATE PRESS INTERVIEWS APRIL 15 EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER GREECE'S "HOSTILITY" TOWARD TURKEY.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRINCIPAL POINTS WERE:

A. "IT IS DEPLORABLE THAT GREECE, TURKEY'S ALLY IN NATO OR AN 'ALLY' ON PAPER, SHOULD HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW A HOSTILE POLICY TOWARD OUR COUNTRY." AS "PROOF" OF THIS HOSTILE POLICY, DEMIREL CITED THE ARMAMENT OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAUSANNE AND PARIS TREATIES, THE CLOSURE OF THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE, AND THE GREEK PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST TURKEY.

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B. "IN THE FIFTY YEARS OF THE REPUBLIC, TURKEY HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE POWERFUL THAN GREECE MILITARILY BUT HAS NEVER SHOWN ANY AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS TOWARD GREECE...WHAT IS GREECE'S PURPOSE IN ENGAGING IN AN ARMS RACE WITH TURKEY? AGAINST WHICH COUNTRY WILL SHE USE THE ARMS WHICH SHE HAS INCREASED THE HIGHEST POINT IN HER HISTORY? WILL GREECE, WHICH HAS BEEN FOLLOWING AN EXPANSIONIST POLICY FOR THE CENTURY AND A HALF SINCE HER FOUNDATION, CONTINUE WITH THIS POLICY? DURING THIS PERIOD, GREECE HAS EXPANDED HER TERRITORY 300 PERCENT... IF GREECE CONTINUES TO HAVE SUCH DREAMS, SHE WILL ENDANGER THE VITAL SECURITY NOT ONLY TO TURKEY BUT ALSO OF THE ENTIRE FREE WORLD AND THE BALKANS."

C. "WE HAD REPEATEDLY INVITED GREECE TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE WITH THE AIM OF FINDING SOLUTIONS TO OUR DISPUTES, INCLUDING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, IN A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AND GOODWILL. BUT THESE PEACEFUL ATTITUDES NEVER EVOKED A RESPONSE FROM GREECE."

D. DEMIREL ALSO WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT US-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE SAID THE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN TURKEY AND TH US HAD STARTED OVER THE OPIUM POPPY ISSUE, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS AN "ABSOLUTELY MEANINGLESS DISPUTE". HOWEVER, HE SAID, ONCE BOTH COUNTRIES LEGISLATURES HAVE APPROVED THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT, "FRIENDSHIP AND HARMONY MAY AGAIN BE THE DOMINATING CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES."

3. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S COMMENTS SHOWED SOMEWHAT MORE REFERENCE TO THE NEW US-GREEK DEFENSE AGREEMENT. HE MADE THESE MAIN POINTS:

A. "WE HAVE NO HOSTILITY TOWARD GREECE.
...THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES ARE DETERMINED AND STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY AGAINST ANY AGRESSION. SO WE, TURKEY, REGARD THE NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USA AND GREECE NOT WITH ANXIETY, BUT AS A USEFUL INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE SOUTHERN UNCLASSIFIED

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FLANK OF OUR ALLIANCE. WHAT WE WILL KEEP CAREFULLY IN MIND IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS WHETHER TURKEY AND GREECE WILL ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ALLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS. WE BELIEVE THE USA WILL ALSO KEEP THE SAME POINT IN MIND WITH THE SAME SENSITIVITY. IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER TO COMMENT ON THE AGREEMENT YET AS THE DETAILS STILL ARE NOT KNOWN."

B. ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENTS

ON THE "BALANCE" IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT THIS BALANCE "IS OF A POLITICAL NATURE REATHER THAN A BALANCE OF FORCES. THE LAUSANNE TREATY ESTABLISHED SUCH A BALANCE. TO ATTEMPT TO UPSET THIS BALANCE IN ANY WAY--FOR INSTANCE, IN ARMING THE ISLANDS--DOES NOT HELP THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE REGION."

C. ASKED WHETHER THE GREEK DEMAND FOR A US GUARANTEE AGAINST TURKEY WOULD NOT MAKE TURKEY APPEAR TO BE A POTENTIAL AGGRESSOR, CAGLAYANGIL SAID, "THE STANCE ADOPTED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE HAS ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION."

D. HE ALSO SAID, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF A US-GREEK AGREEMENT WYILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, HE SAID, TURKEY HAD BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREEK AGREEMENT BEFORE FONMIN BITSIOS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

E. AS REGARDS THE CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, THE TURKISH SIDE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID HAMPERING THE TALKS. WHILE CLERIDES' RESIGNATION HAD NOT HELPED, UN SECGEN WALDHEIM WAS CONTINUING TO ASSERT GREAT EFFORTS FOR EPEACE. IF THE OUTCOME WAS NEGATIVE, NEITHER THE TURKS NOR WALDHEIM WERE RESPONSIBLE.

F. CAGLAYANGIL REAFFIRMED THAT TURKEY WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION OF THE AEGEAN QUESTIONS. CONTACTS WITH THE GREEKS WERE CONTINUING REGARDING THE START OF TURKISH-GREEK TALKS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE, WHICH MIGHT COMMENCE FOLLOWING THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

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